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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

DATE DISTR. 2 Sept 52

SUBJECT Dismantling of German Plants by the Soviets

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1. [redacted] the following items constituted the main bulk of equipment dismantled by the USSR in Germany: metal-cutting machine tools, forge-pressing and rolling equipment, and chemical equipment. Moreover, some enterprises were dismantled completely or almost completely with the idea of setting up the whole complex of the enterprise in a completed unit in the USSR. The following are included in such enterprises: synthetic rubber plants, synthetic gasoline plants, coal briquet factories, coal pit equipment, small and medium machine-building plants of military importance, synthetic silk factories, and so on.

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2. Moreover, a large number of railroad cars and locomotives, and railroad rails were taken out of Germany to the USSR. For transporting the rails, a series of accessory railroad lines in the East zone of Germany were taken to pieces.

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3. [redacted] there were dismantling plans and a dismantling board. Dismantling was performed chiefly by German personnel, and partially by Soviet military-technical units. Dismantling crews were usually headed by qualified foremen or engineers. Apparently carelessness was rampant and many mistakes were made. Obsolete equipment, in particular, was dismantled and imported into the USSR in many cases. [redacted] one of the oldest briquet factories of Saxony was dismantled and sent to the USSR and that it was necessary to overhaul its equipment and replace a considerable part of it.

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4. Still it was very important for the USSR to get equipment from dismantled enterprises of Germany, and it contributed greatly to the industry of the USSR. It is obvious that the real cost of the equipment taken out of Germany was much higher than the cost shown in the accounts. [redacted]

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 a large number of industrial enterprises were in operation. Many of them had not been dismantled at all; others had been restored to a certain degree by that time.

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